

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's comments:

Claim 8 has been canceled; and

Claims 1-7 and 9-20 have been amended.

Each of the Calvert and Brull references cited by the Examiner relate to thimbles used as finger protective devices for purposes of safety. The cited Cao patent, on the other hand, relates to an acupressure point treating system which straps to individual fingers. Applicant's invention, however, deals with neither of these areas of concern, but with a finger-tip encirclement worn on a finger of a user's hand when writing or studying to act simply as a placebo -- more specifically, one employed to recall previously learned educational material by having a surface positioned to be rubbed between the fingers of the hand as an act of information retrieval. Clearly, nothing to do with "safety" is involved, and nothing to do with acupuncture treatment as an alternative to utilizing needles is involved.

Highlighting this difference, Claims 1-7 and 9-20 have been amended, to point out, first of all, that the encirclement includes a rubbing surface as a discernible point of attention to be focused upon by the user when rubbing to recall educational material previously learned. The finger tip encirclement is more specifically defined as being sized to be worn to overlies substantially only the end-most phalange of the user's finger, as shown in FIGURES 2-4 of the drawings. The encirclement is further called out as being constrained, when worn, to be fixed in non-rotative position on the finger so that the discernible point of attention can be easily focused upon when rubbing. As the Specification makes clear, a rubbing of the point of attention has been found to increase recollection of what had previously been learned and memorized. Claims 11 and 16 have been amended to define the point of attention as including a magnetic insert of substantially orthogonal appearance, preferably "flat" and "black", respectively in allowing this usefulness to follow.

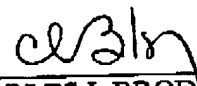
In view of these modifications, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-7 and 9-20 now distinguish both structurally and patentably over all the references of record. The finger thinking tool of the invention, as now more particularly defined, combines the visual and physical stimulus of "rubbing" as an education tool to provide a triggering mechanism to help focus and concentration in studying.

This Application is now considered to be in condition for Allowance. Allowance of Claims 1-7 and 9-10 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 10, 2005